



Lambert recommended council consult with a karst specialist after working from the western portion of the county eastward to identify karst topography. Monterey sits in a trough, and the aquifer gets recharged mostly from water passing through limestone in Monterey Mountain and Jack Mountain, Lambert explained.

While looking at potential problems the proposed 42- inch diameter pipeline might cause, "I suddenly realized Monterey's wells might be impacted," Lambert said.

He said the town's deepest well is about 1,000 feet below the lowest point of the proposed pipeline about 1.6 miles away, and within a distance that could make the water subject to possible contamination.

The elevation difference from where the proposed pipeline would cross the recharge area of the aquifer supplying the town wells No. 1 and No. 3 to the foot of the well is 427 feet and 1,005 feet, respectively.

Lambert expressed concern over sedimentation or pollutants from an engineering failure that would end up in the aquifer "for my house and family" on the Monterey water system.

Dominion government affairs manager Emmett Toms said Dominion is not going to do anything the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is not going to tell them to do, Lambert said.

Lambert said he has been working on locating a degreed karst hydrologist who would be willing to work for the town. He said he has been told there was no way Dominion could build the pipeline along its originally designated path crossing the valley between Vanderpool and Monterey without harming the town wells. He recommended the town send a letter to FERC expressing a specialist's findings.

Town attorney Melissa Dowd asked if the alternate route through Mill Gap and Mustoe could affect the wells, and Lambert said it would not.

Lambert said Toms told him three other alternate routes were dead unless FERC decides the resurrect them.

Council member Jack Kilgallen asked what sort of engineering mishap could contaminate the wells. Lambert explained every underground stream goes into a sinking stream. He had counted between five and seven streams that have sinking points. Any sediments can plug the conduits in the aquifer, he said.

Kilgallen said when he built a pond on his property there was "serious muddying" of a neighbor's pond and in four or five months, the pond was back to normal.

"I wouldn't want to drink muddy water for four or five months," Lambert said.

Lambert explained karst topography allows the flow of sedimentation. Sandstone is different in that it filters water. Karst, on the other hand, lets the water flow through channels in the limestone. Sedimentation is potentially a pervasive threat that can be caused by constructing the pipeline on aquifer recharge sites, Lambert wrote in a handout he presented to council. "Any release of

sediments can potentially block recharge sites or alter flow velocity. Contaminant laden sediments can have devastating effects on water quality.

“Fertilizers involved in reseeding and then herbicides to control plant growth can have detrimental effects on water quality ... Any engineering failure on these two mountains can have irreparable damage to the underground recharge conduits. An underground ecological disaster on this ridge and its underground karst environment will not be something Dominion Transmission Inc. will realistically clean up, but something the downstream residents will have to live with. This segment of the pipeline corridor is too risky to the karst recharge environment down flow if it, and no amount of best management practices will make it acceptable,” he wrote.

Council member Ronald Wimer noted some sedimentation is common after any hard storm.

Lambert said all it takes is a hurricane for water to bypass barriers on sinking points. Some streams have four documented sinking points while others have just one. He said it was too big of a risk with municipal wells to try and protect the sinking points.

Holman quoted Gov. Terry McAuliffe as saying the pipeline would be the most ecological pipeline ever built. Dominion needs to spend the money to do it right if the project moves forward, Holman said.

“My purpose is to try and do what it takes to protect the wells,” Holman said.

Lambert said one hydrologist told him he would look at the entire situation for free and guaranteed his fee would not exceed \$1,000. He said he preferred not to identify the specialist until he considered the town's offer.

Dowd asked Holman if he has spoken to supervisors, and the mayor replied he had not brought up a consulting a hydrologist with them.

Holman noted the law requires a pipeline only to be 150 feet from a well.

Council member Cody Cohen asked if the proposed pipeline path would be near the sinking springs behind the landfill. Lambert replied that it would.

Moving the path one way or another would make property owners happy or angry, but at least they would have uncontaminated water, Holman said. He said Dominion has been asked to put a plan together.

The onus is on council to get FERC the information, Kilgallen said.

That needs to happen before the April 28 deadline for FERC's environmental scoping comment period, Dowd noted.

Lambert said the hydrologist already expressed an opinion that the pipeline couldn't be built on the original path without damaging the water supply. “He cast doubt on it,” Lambert said.

Dowd said it was important to get an expert to examine the situation for a letter to FERC. "Screaming the sky is falling doesn't go for them," she said. The town should address what would mitigate the issue instead, she explained. "The town and the county would benefit from an expert," she added. "I think that would be very important for the town and the county."

"Without hesitation, I say water is the most important thing we have," Holman said.

Kilgallen suggested the hydrologist work up a point paper.

Dowd recommended the town demand or request the proposed pipeline path be moved and provide an estimate as to how far.

"He can give a presentation, and we can decide from there," Wimer said.